Government Accommodation to Retired Government Employees and their Wards

1720. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 438 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only eleven of these Departments having separate pool of accommodation remit their rents to these quarters to the account of the Directorate of Estates; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what are the reasons that the wards of the employees who are working in other Government departments after their death | retirement are not given Government accommodation in General Pool to those wards who are getting salary from the Government of India and not drawing any house rent allowance under the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Departments having separate pool of accommodation credit the rent of those quarters to a Consolidated head of account.

(b) Does not arise.

Retrenchment of Mine Workers in Orissa

1721. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 5000 mine workers in Goda and Barbil areas in Orissa on the verge of retrenchment as the mine owners have decided to close down their iron-ore mining activities;

(b) if so, the reasons for stopping the mining activities; and

(c) the details of directives sent to the mine owners in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) M|s. S. Lal & Co. Ltd. and their 12 contractors, At|P.O. Bhadrasahi, Distt. Keonjhar had sought permission under Section 25-O of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for closure of their Kasia iron ore mines w.e.f. 14.9.88. The total number of workmen proposed to be retrenched as a result of closure is 544. The said Company and their contractors are, however, not required to obtain permission for closure under the Industrial Disputes Act as each of them employs less than 100 workers. They are never theless required to serve 60 days' notice of intention to close down the establishments as well as to give notice and compensation to the retrenched workers. They have been advised to comply with these requirements. The reason for closure of the mines by M|s. S. Lal & Co. Ltd. and their contractors is stated to be expiry of validity of working permission|contract.

Besides, M|s. Tarini Minerals, At B. Roida, P.O. Barbil Distt. Keonjhar had sought permission under Section 25-N of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for retrenchment of 200 workmen w.e.f. 11.10.88. This Company has since withdrawn its application for permission for retrenchment of workers.

Exploitation of Workers going abroad from Orissa

1722. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint about the labourers from Orissa being exploited and victimised by the middlemen for sending them abroad;

(b) if so, whether any enquiries have been made as to how many such workers from Orissa are staying in Delhi in order to go abroad in search of employment; and

(c) the steps taken against the construction companies for not sending the labourers who are waiting for months together though their interviews had been conducted long ago?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Construction companies get workers from all States including Orissa to work on their Projects abroad or in India. They deploy workers abroad on their projects as per their requirements. Since the number of such workers is large, it is not possible to conduct enquiries as to how may workers are waiting to go abroad for work.

(c) Under the Emigration Act, 1983 the Government cannot intervene in the selection process or the actual deployment of workers by these Construction Companies. However, the specific complaints of exploitation of workers are investigated as and when received if these are cognisable under law.

Priority to agro-based industries

1723. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give high priority to the agro—based industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposals under Government's consideration in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) Detailed strategies for development during the Eighth Five Year Plan period have not been decided.

Promotion of Deep Sea-Fishing

1724. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 1333 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th August 1988 and state the number of trawlers proposed to be acquired for promotion of deep sea fishing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): During the VII Plan period, it is proposed to increase the number of deep sea fishing vessels from the existing 153 to 500 through indigenous construction, import and charter of foreign fishing vessels.

Commissioning of Godavari Fertiliser Factory at Kakinada in A.P.

1725. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the delay in the commissioning of Godavari Fertilizer Factory at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Commissioning of the Godavari Fertilizer and Chemicals plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh was delayed due to 50 per cent power cut imposed by State Electricity Board and non-availability of locos for haulage of raw materials from Vishakapatnam to Kakinada.

(b) The plant has since been commissioned and is in production.

Fertilizer Plants in the States

1726. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States not having even one fertilizer plant and the reasons for the same; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to set up fertilizer plants in such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN